

others, because once we get into that kind of a selection process, there will be no end to it. If the House sends us a bill financing programs which some of them like but eliminating programs that they do not like, when the issue comes to the Senate with our opportunity for unlimited amendments, we will never agree to that kind of cherry picking with financing programs that one group likes and eliminating all others; and that we will keep the Government going as it need be, crystallize the issue for the 1996 election, and not use the debt ceiling as political blackmail.

But most fundamentally, Mr. President, as I look over these complex charts and look over the figures, they are very, very close indeed. And even with the structural changes, there is middle ground available.

So it is my hope that the negotiators will continue talking. There is a bipartisan group of some 20 U.S. Senators evenly divided—almost evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans—who will seek to come to middle ground and to accommodate these differences of opinion, most of which boil down to dollars and cents, and structural changes themselves boil down to dollars and cents, remembering the foremost point that there is agreement on a balanced budget within 7 years with the real figures, the Congressional Budget Office figures; and we ought to declare victory on both sides, make it a win-win situation, and not try to achieve political advantage in the context where it is a lose-lose for all parties if we continue this stalemate.

But, as I say, to repeat very briefly, I intend to put before the Senate a side-by-side comparison showing how close we are on the figures themselves and on the structural changes.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, during the course of the past few days, I have been touring Pennsylvania looking at very, very extensive damage from the heavy snows and from the flood.

Earlier today I came from Harrisburg, where I was present with my colleague, Senator SANTORUM, looking over the tremendous damage which has been inflicted at several points from the swollen Susquehanna River. It is a very distressing sight. The walk bridge which spans the Susquehanna from Harrisburg over to the island has been destroyed in part. Many houses have been destroyed. My staff director of northern Pennsylvania, Tom Bowman, in Potter County, has several feet of water in his basement. His furnace is ruined. Appliances are ruined. And that is characteristic as well and has been going on over all of the State.

On Saturday early, I flew to Pittsburgh, where I met Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge looking at the tremendous devastation and destruction which is present there. At Three Rivers Stadium, at the confluence of the three

rivers in Pittsburgh, water was all the way up to the Hilton Hotel and was extraordinarily serious.

Later on Saturday, I saw the swollen Susquehanna in Wilkes-Barre, where some 100,000 people had been evacuated, and the flooding had spread through Pennsylvania, and what a very, very serious situation it is.

As of this morning, only 6 counties had been declared disaster areas in Pennsylvania, which I found just a little surprising. On Saturday, I talked to Mr. James Lee Witt, who is the FEMA national director. Mr. Witt was on the job and promised to have the emergency declaration promptly executed. And, in fact, it was done on Sunday morning, with some question, some misunderstanding, perhaps, about how fast the facts and figures got through. But as of this morning, only 6 counties had been declared a disaster area, and 19 counties were added. Yet, we do not have all the appropriate counties identified.

In western Pennsylvania, Beaver County, immediately north of Allegheny County, was not declared a disaster area. I can attest personally to the disaster there. Nor was Greene County so declared. It is important that those counties be extended, and that the Federal emergency relief be moved in there very expeditiously on temporary housing, on the grants that are available, on the low SBA loans which are available, and on the extension of unemployment compensation when people lose out on their work because of this flood damage.

I might share with you one factor as to how serious the situation is. I declared this with my distinguished colleague, Senator SANTORUM. But on the banks of the Susquehanna earlier today, Senator SANTORUM said that he hoped FEMA would be "liberal." But I quickly modified that to "moderate." There we have the "L" word from Senator SANTORUM. May the RECORD show a smile coming to the face of the distinguished Presiding Officer. But it is that serious that a call has been made for that kind of treatment by the Federal management corps.

As I have earlier today on some of the radio networks, I would like to repeat the 800 number which people can call for assistance. They can make application by telephone. It is 1-800-462-9029. I will repeat that. It is 1-800-462-9029, where applications can be made on the phone.

Yesterday, I also talked to Secretary of Transportation Peña, who has advanced \$1 million for highway cleanup and bridge cleanup, and urged that a more realistic figure be assessed because of the tremendous damage done to the highways and bridges in Pennsylvania.

Last year, the Congress appropriated \$6.4 billion largely for the earthquakes in California but also for emergencies such as are now plaguing Pennsylvania and many other States in the mid-Atlantic area where we sustained a snow-

fall 2 weeks ago today of 30 inches. In Philadelphia, it measured 30.7 inches. And then with the high temperatures last Thursday into the sixties, with the tremendous melting and flooding, there is a very serious situation indeed. So I urge FEMA and the Department of Transportation to take all action possible to bring relief to those people who are in need of emergency assistance.

I thank the Chair, and in the absence of any other Senator in the Chamber, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANTORUM. I thank the Chair.

FLOODING IN PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I wanted to follow up the remarks of my senior Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER], and talk about the problems that we are having in Pennsylvania today. The first thing I wanted to do was make sure the record is very clear in my use of the word "liberal." I suggested that FEMA be more liberal than what they have been to date, as of early this morning, in declaring counties in Pennsylvania eligible for individual assistance, for emergency disaster relief funds. I think that was an appropriate call given the fact that the Governor of Pennsylvania, who knows a little bit about the Emergency Relief Act that is in place here because he helped write it several years ago and knows it cover to cover, declared 58 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties disaster areas and was seeking Federal grant recognition for, if not all, certainly a great majority of those counties.

Senator SPECTER, I know, has been traveling the State extensively, as have I. We have seen the tremendous damage done by this heavy snowfall and subsequent quick melting and floods and then freezing again, causing ice jams and horrible damage on our Commonwealth's rivers and streams. We do believe that several more counties should be included in the list that are eligible for individual assistance, and obviously the process will commence to determine whether those counties and municipalities will be eligible for public assistance, for reimbursing municipalities and counties for the cost of cleanup and dealing with the problems of this horrible storm.

I understand that the senior Senator has already talked about how today James Lee Witt, the head of FEMA, has been up to the State of Pennsylvania and he has added to the list of 6 counties an additional 19 counties, bringing to 25 the number of counties that will now be eligible for some assistance.

We were in Harrisburg this morning. I know he mentioned we saw some of